

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

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August 20, 1997

SENSITIVE

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Paul E. Sullivan, Esq. 1225 I St., N.W. Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: MUR 4305

Malcolm S. "Steve" Forbes, Jr.

Forbes, Inc.

Forbes for President, Inc. and William Dal Col, as treasurer

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Based on a complaint filed with the Federal Election Commission on February 12, 1996, the Commission, on December 3, 1996, found that there was reason to believe your clients, Malcolm S. "Steve" Forbes, Jr., Forbes, Inc., Forbes for President, Inc. and its treasurer ("Committee"), each violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). The Commission found reason to believe the Committee also violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(b)(2)(A). The Commission instituted an investigation of this matter.

After considering all the evidence available to the Commission, the Office of the General Counsel is prepared to recommend that the Commission find probable cause to believe that violations have occurred.

The Commission may or may not approve the General Counsel's recommendation. Submitted for your review is a brief stating the position of the General Counsel on the legal and factual issues of the case. Within 15 days of your receipt of this notice, you may file with the Secretary of the Commission a brief (ten copies if possible) stating your position on the issues and replying to the brief of the General Counsel. (Three copies of such brief should also be forwarded to the Office of the General Counsel, if possible.) The General Counsel's brief and any brief which you may submit will be considered by the Commission before proceeding to a vote of whether there is probable cause to believe violations have occurred.

Celebrating the Commission's 20th Anniversary

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW DEDICATED TO KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED

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If you are unable to file a responsive brief within 15 days, you may submit a written request for an extension of time. All requests for extensions of time must be submitted in writing five days prior to the due date, and good cause must be demonstrated. In addition, the Office of the General Counsel ordinarily will not give extensions beyond 20 days.

A finding of probable cause to believe requires that the Office of the General Counsel attempt for a period of not less than 30, but not more than 90 days, to settle this matter through a conciliation agreement.

Should you have any questions, please contact Thomas J. Andersen, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 219-3690. He will be out of the office from August 1 to August 20, 1997. Any questions you have during this period should be directed to Mary Ann Bumgarner, the Assistant General Counsel.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble General Counsel

Enclosure Brief